

Capt. Andrew J. McFarland
Commander, Naval Test Wing Pacific

Capt. A.J. “Face” McFarland is a native of Aurora, Illinois, and a 1993 NROTC graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Aeronautics and Astronautics and earned an Executive Master of Business Administration degree from Naval Postgraduate School. He earned his “Wings of Gold” in TA-4J Skyhawks in Meridian, Mississippi, in July 1997, and subsequently completed training in F/A-18A-D Hornets in 1998 with Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 125 in Lemoore, California.



He served with the VFA-151 “Vigilantes” aboard USS Constellation (CV 64) from 1998 to 2001, deploying twice and flying twenty-two combat missions in support of Operation Southern Watch. McFarland completed U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School in 2002, and was assigned to the Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 30 “Bloodhounds” in Point Mugu, California. In 2004, he was assigned to the VFA-97 “Warhawks” and deployed to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, with Marine Aircraft Group 12, where he served as a department head.

In 2005, McFarland was re-designated as an Aerospace Engineering Duty Officer and reported to the VX-31 “Dust Devils” at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California, as the F/A-18 Advanced Systems Project Officer. He also served as the F/A-18 and EA-18G Advanced Weapons Laboratory Military Deputy IPT Lead.

McFarland then moved to Patuxent River, MD and served in the F/A-18 and EA-18G Program Office (PMA-265) as the Radar Integrated Product Team (IPT) Lead from October 2007 to November 2009, followed by another tour in Pax River as the Joint Standoff Weapon Class Desk Officer with the Precision Strike Weapons Program Office (PMA-201).

He assumed the duties of VX-31 Chief Test Pilot in June 2011 and took command of the squadron in January 2013. McFarland next served as chief of staff in the Program Executive Office for Tactical Air Programs at in Patuxent River, Maryland. Following that tour, he served as deputy program manager and ultimately as program manager of the Air Warfare/From-the-Air (FTA) Program Office (PMA-298). Most recently, McFarland has served as vice commander for Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division as well as NAWCWD’s F-35 military director.

McFarland’s personal decorations include three Meritorious Service Medals, one Air (Strike/Flight) Medal, two Navy Commendation Medals, three Navy Achievement Medals, and various unit, campaign, and service awards. He has flown over 2500 hours in 57 aircraft and has 375 arrested landings on four aircraft carriers.